Submission No 438

Mobile speed camera enforcement programs in NSW

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Road safety should be paramount - people learn behaviour immediately by the visibility of seeing police enforcement - whether that be police vehicles, clearly identified mobile speed cameras, redlight/speed cameras etc. Hidden cameras with a delay to get a fine does not rectify a behaviour while it is happening.

It is obvious the current thinking of the NSW state government is to fill the government coffers with revenue raised from unmarked mobile speed cameras, without any effort or care to improve the education, training and awareness of the current driving public.

There are so many failures of the NSW government in relation to driver education - it begins with teaching drivers how to drive rather than how to pass a test, but should extend to overseas drivers wanting a NSW licence should be subject to the same tests. Driver education and testing should not be a one test and you are set for life - there should be continuous education and regular testing. We are told that driving is not a right, it is a privilege. If it really is, then continuous education needs to be part of that privilege.

If the government was actually concerned about the wellbeing of the citizens then it would be mandatory for all new vehicles to be 5 star safety rating.

As a motorbike rider as well as a car driver, I know all too well that visibility is paramount to helping other drivers know to do the right thing. Visibility with speed cameras is about that same logic. If people were taught how to drive properly the emphasis you certainly be less needed to be focussed on how bad all the drivers are behaving. The target of zero lives lost on NSW roads is a nice catch phrase, but the NSW government have not demonstrated any real valuable measures to achieve this goal. This will never be achieved when the hidden agenda is to recover revenues from drivers who generally have not been excessive in speed.

Fix the speed limits to be consistent throughout the city and country, so the driver does not have to continually be focussed on watching the speedo. The city should be flat speed limit for all suburban streets, etc.

Please bring some common sense back to road safety, and more importantly care for your citizens and don't treat them like cash cows. We want to live, but we want to be treated with respect and not taken for fools. Certainly police the roads, but do it visibly and with the intention of improving behaviours and increasing respect between the police and public. Government continues to frustrate the public with the lack of transparency and hidden agendas.

I do enjoy driving and motorbike riding. I want to continue to do so. I hope you will see common sense and revert to visible policing rather than hidden speed cameras. It might just save to save lives, unlike your current practises.